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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/922,618	08/06/2001	Joseph Quinlan	POU920010055US1	8285

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EXAMINER
ELMORE, JOHN E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2134	

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	**Applicant(s)**
Office Action Summary	09/922,618	QUINLAN, JOSEPH
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	John Elmore	2134	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>06 August 2001</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is

closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-15</u> is/are pending in the application.

  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-16</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>01 October 2001</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

  a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

  1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

  2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

  3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage

    application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)   5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/10/2002</u>.   6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-15 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1.   **Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)** as being anticipated by Lee

("How to mount/unmount for users," Linux Gazette, May 1997).

Regarding claim 1, Lee teaches a method comprising the steps of:

specifying an access authority that a given user has to the first file system

(root and non-root access authority using user option; page 3, paragraph 1);

in response to a request by a user to perform a requested mount

operation on the first file system, determining whether the user has general authority to

perform the requested mount operation (determine whether user has logged in as root,

i.e. with root authority; page 3, paragraph 1);

if the user has general authority to perform the requested mount

operation, performing the requested mount operation (linux performs mount and

unmount operations for users logged in as root; page 3, paragraph 1); and

if the user does not have general authority to perform the requested mount

operation, determining whether the user has a predetermined access authority to the

first file system (determine whether user has authority to mount and unmount the file

system via the user option in the /etc/fstab configuration file; page 3, paragraph 2); and

performing the requested mount operation only if the user has the

predetermined access authority to the first file system (linux performs mount and

unmount operations for non-root users on the file system only where authority is granted

via the user option in the /etc/fstab configuration file; page 3, paragraph 2).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Lee teaches all the limitations of claim 1, and further

teaches the use of the mount operation in the linux operating system. It is an inherent

property of the linux system that the mount operation logically associates one file

system with another – in this case the first file system with the second file system – and

that the umount operation logically dissociates one file system from another. Hence,

the claims are clearly anticipated.

Regarding claim 4, Lee teaches all the limitations of claim 1, and further

teaches the step of determining whether the user has general authority to perform the

requested mount operation comprises the step of determining whether the user has

general superuser authority (whether user logs on as root; page 3, paragraph 1).

Regarding claim 5, Lee teaches all the limitations of claim 1, and further

teaches the step of determining whether the user has general authority to perform the

requested mount operation comprises the step of determining whether the user has

superuser authority for mount operations (whether user logs in as root, wherein

superuser authority inherently includes mount operations; and in the alternative,

whether the user option is provided for all file systems in the /etc/fstab configuration file,

which would provide general superuser authority solely for the mount and unmount

operations; page 3, paragraphs 1 and 2).

Regarding claims 6-10, these claims constitute an apparatus version of the

claimed method steps above (claims 1-5), wherein all claim limitations have been

addressed as set forth above. Therefore, for the reasons applied above, such claims

also are anticipated.

Regarding claims 11-15, these claims constitute a program storage device

version of the claimed method steps above (claims 1-5), wherein all claim limitations

have been addressed as set forth above. Therefore, for the reasons applied above,

such claims also are anticipated.

Conclusion

2.·   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Mann et al. ("Chapter 4 : Filesystem Restrictions, " Linux System Security: The

Administrator's Guide to Open Security Tools, Pearson Education Publishers,

September 18, 2002) teaches the mount operation in the linux operating system and the

implementation of the user option to provide non-root users with authority to perform the
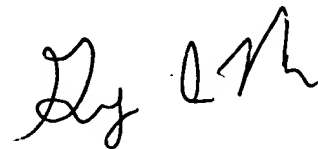
operation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Elmore whose telephone number is 571-272-4224. The examiner can normally be reached on M 10-8, T-Th 9-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Morse can be reached on 571-272-3838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JE

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